

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 650

By Black

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health and all other appropriate state agencies to collaborate with various health organizations to increase awareness of the negative public health impact of diabetes.

WHEREAS, diabetes is a major public health concern that affects more than 200 million adults worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks third in the nation for the highest percentage of persons diagnosed with diabetes, with 8.4 percent of the population having the disease in 2004; and

WHEREAS, diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in Tennessee in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, 9.7 percent of Tennessee's African-American population had been diagnosed with diabetes, more than any other single racial or ethnic group in the State; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, patients with diabetes are more likely to develop complications such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, nervous system disease, amputations, and periodontal disease; as the disease worsens, more aggressive and potentially more costly therapies are needed to attempt to control blood sugar levels; and

WHEREAS, 40 percent of kidney failure patients in Tennessee have had diabetes; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, diabetes-related hospital charges in Tennessee amounted to 1.3 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, all TennCare Managed Care Organizations fell below the fiftieth percentile in HbA1c testing rates; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for diabetes, lifestyle changes such as diet and physical activity can help control blood glucose; in addition, self-management education helps people with diabetes take charge of the disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the Bureau of TennCare, TennCare Managed Care Organizations, and all other appropriate state agencies should collaborate with local chapters of the American Diabetes Association, Kidney Foundation, Tennessee Dietetic Association, Prevent Blindness of Tennessee, Diabetes Educators, and other relevant health associations in Tennessee to raise the level of awareness of the negative impact diabetes has on Tennessee's health status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the Department of Health and all other appropriate state agencies should explore disease management collaborations, opportunities, and methods for helping those with diabetes control their disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.